



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Four Hampton department directors retire in June

Four department directors are retiring this month from the City of Hampton: Robin Carpenter, Hampton Public Library; John Johnson, Citizens' Unity Commission; James Eason, Economic Development; and Michael Curry, Arts Commission.

Library Director Robin Carpenter retired on June 15. He worked for the City of Hampton for 25 years, serving as library director for the past five years. Valerie Gardner, Hampton Main Library manager, has been appointed as the acting library director. Gardner has served many roles in the city's library department including Phoebus Branch manager, reference librarian and reference supervisor. She is a graduate of Hampton University and received her master's degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

John Johnson, Citizens' Unity Commission director, is retiring on June 29. He has served as the director for 11 years. Michele Woods Jones has been named Unity Commission director, and will be serving in a part-time capacity. (This position was reduced to part-time as part of FY13 budget savings.) She has a master's degree from California State University and a bachelor's from the University of California. She is certified in collaborative negotiation and conflict resolution/mediation. Woods Jones served as assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Business & Administrative Services at the University of California and more recently has served as a consultant. She began a two-week transition with Johnson this week.

Economic Development Director James Eason will retire from the City of Hampton on June 29. He has served as Economic Development director for the past eight years, and was Hampton mayor from 1982 to 1998. The city will conduct a full-scale search for a new director. Michael Yaskowsky, senior development manager for Hampton Economic Development, has been appointed interim director. Yaskowsky currently manages development efforts for the aerospace, homeland defense and modeling and simulation industries. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Christopher Newport University and is a graduate of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.

Michael Curry, who has served as the Arts Commission director for 24 years, is retiring from the City of Hampton on June 29. However, he will remain as artistic director on a consultant basis for the non-profit Hampton Arts Foundation. The city will no longer have an Arts Commission director as a staff position but will help support the Foundation.